

Statement from Finland to GEO XII Plenary by Head of Delegation Mikko Strahlendorff

Finland and the European Commission will next week set up a new legal entity for European carbon and GHG observations. The Integrated Carbon Observing System European Research Infrastructure Consortia is to be adopted in Finnish parliament next week and finally gives European cooperation in carbon observations a European legal vehicle. It has taken 6 years and serves as an example of the time it can take to establish new organizations. But it also serves as an example how 14 European countries could standardize and develop from some existing stations of similar measurements a wider and better resourced network of observation stations with shared quality control and data dissemination. This was achieved both with atmosphere and ecosystem stations. Ocean observations are well on their way as well.

ICOS is also committed to continue the networking efforts to the global level in actively supporting the GEO Carbon and GHG initiative to become a flagship. In addition to global cooperation there is also the aim to partner the ground, air and ocean observations with satellite based Earth Observation. Finland is in addition to ICOS eager to help GEO in the domain of cryosphere monitoring especially global snow information. The Arctic is melting faster and faster, let's try to capture the loss as long as we can.